

Workshop
Memory and Narrative: Newfoundland and Labrador Literature and Culture
N. Earle, fall 2010
Wednesdays (15:00; room: 2.22)

This workshop will begin by examining works that explore two major topics in Newfoundland literature: the extinction of the Beothuk, the Native people of the island of Newfoundland, in the early 19th century, and the sealing disaster of 1914. The third day will be devoted to a play about the life, story-telling, and music of French Newfoundlander and folk musician Emile Benoit. The central questions we will ask of these texts are: How and why do artists make use of history? How do narratives become meaningful in shaping the identities of places and peoples? Do stories communicated through an oral tradition serve different functions than written (literary) texts?

Required readings/viewings:

Cassie Brown with Harold Horwood, *Death on the Ice* (1972)
Varick Frissell (dir.), *The Viking* (1931)
Michael Crummey, *River Thieves* (2001)
Robert Chafe, *Emile's Dream* (video-recording, 2010)

Selected secondary sources are also required.

Schedule:

Wed., Nov. 3: Introduction

Narrative and identity: why do stories matter? (Ricoeur)

Wed., Nov. 17: *Death on the Ice*

Discussion: *Death on the Ice*

Wed., Nov. 24

Film showing: Frissell (dir.), *The Viking*

Wed. Dec. 1: *River Thieves*

Aboriginal presence in Newfoundland and Labrador
Representing the Beothuk in Newfoundland literature
Discussion: *River Thieves*

Mon., Dec. 7

Film showing: *Emile's Dream*

Wed. Dec. 15:

Newfoundland renaissance & contemporary theatre

French-Newfoundland music and storytelling traditions
Discussion: *Emile's Dream*

Bibliography

- Chafe, Paul. "Lament for a Notion: Loss and the Beothuk in Michael Crummey's *River Thieves*." *Essays on Canadian Writing* 82 (spring 2004): 93-117.
- Dalton, Mary. "Shadow Indians: The Beothuk Motif in Newfoundland Literature." *Newfoundland Studies* 8.2 (1992): 135-46. Available at:
<http://journals.hil.unb.ca/index.php/NFLDS/issue/view/130>
- Earle, Nancy. "Death on the Ice and the Newfoundland Imaginary: Print Culture on the Periphery." *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada* 48.1 (spring 2010): 119-52.
- Gwyn, Sandra. "The Newfoundland Renaissance," *Saturday Night* (April 1976): 38-45.
- O'Dea, Shane. "Culture and Country: The Role of the Arts and Heritage in the Nationalist Revival in Newfoundland." *Newfoundland Studies* 19.2 (2003): 378-86. Available at:
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- Ricoeur, Paul. "Life: A Story in Search of a Narrator." In *A Ricoeur Reader: Reflection and Imagination*, ed. Mario J Valdés, pp. 425-37. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1991.
- . Narrative Identity. Trans. David Wood. In *On Paul Ricoeur: Narrative and Interpretation*, ed. David Wood, pp. 189-99. London: Routledge, 1991.
- Sugars, Cynthia. "Original Sin, or, The Last of the First Ancestors: Michael Crummey's *River Thieves*." *English Studies in Canada* 31.4 (December 2005): 147-75. Available at:
<http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/ESC/issue/archive>
- Thomas, Gerald. *The Two Traditions: The Art of Storytelling Amongst French Newfoundlanders*. St John's: Breakwater Books, 1993 (pp. 11-20; 89-131).
- Wyle, Herb. "Beothuk Gothic: Michael Crummey's *River Thieves*." In *Unsettled Remains: Canadian Literature and the Postcolonial Gothic*, ed. Cynthia Sugars and Gerry Turcotte, 229-24. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier UP, 2009.